Fire Program Analysis – Preparedness Module
Fire Support Assumptions

Issue: What are the assumptions built into the Fire Support portion of the Manage Budget function within FPA PM?

Background:
The Manage Budget feature of the FPA PM model was introduced in version 1.2 of the software. It is based upon Business Use Case 58: Define FPU Rules and Thresholds; System Use Case: Define Leadership and Support Rules; and PCR 40: PCR 40 Detail Post Optimization Rules. The purpose of this paper is to summarize the assumptions and values used for Fire Support.

Background:
Fire Support includes activities and positions that support fire line production, including but not limited to: fire planners, training/safety officers, dispatchers, fire cache personnel, etc. Nationally, a single percent is added to all the FPU's Fire leadership and resource budget after the optimization routine is completed to generate the total FPU budget.

The FPU Fire Support budget is spent against a pick list to determine fire support positions and items. The FPU customizes Fire Support positions based on specific needs of the FPU (for example a steep, mountainous FPU may need more radio support than a flatter sloped FPU).

- The pick list allows for refining grade structure, organizational structure, and staffing considerations.
- This process takes more collaborative effort on the backside of the process but allows the FPU's to play a stronger role in specifying their needs.
- Allows the ability to recognize agency needs/mission.
- This process is applied to each budget increment on the cost frontier.

Assumptions:
The Fire Support percent was derived from Agency provided data. The range across the five federal agencies was 25% – 40%. The average was 30%. It is recognized that these percentages vary based on unit size, complexity, and additional factors. The percentages provided represent single agency units. Since Fire Planning Units consist of multiple agencies, the historical percentage may not translate correctly from single agency units to Fire Planning Units. Selecting the appropriate percentage to use is a work in progress.

For this first iteration of FPA PM, 35% was chosen as the national standard to be applied for generating the Fire Support budget. The FPA Steering Committee will evaluate the suitability of this percentage and will adjust if needed.